

 WORSHIP

 GROW

 LIVE

 CARE

 SERVE

MARCH 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star

 Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Today's reflection is taken from the **BLC Lenten Devotional** shared in the Quarterly Mailer. If you did not receive a Quarterly Mailer in the mail or you would like additional paper copies of the devotional, please contact the church office. Consider reflecting each day during the season of Lent on one of the writings shared.

My peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14:27

Pandemic wilderness! I think of wilderness as expansive with no end in sight. You wander, not knowing which way to go. Pandemic wilderness is close up with NO where to go! Such it has been this past year.

We were dropped into a wilderness with no preparation. I found myself saying "I don't know" often. Can we go to Wegmans (that place, alone, was a wilderness in the paper goods aisle!) Will the kids be able to come for Christmas? How will we live our church lives? When will we sing again? Will our families and friends be safe? Where are we on this journey and how much farther must we go?

Having someone you like, as well as love surely helps that journey. Not only Jim (whom I like VERY much,) but Jesus as well! I've always believed that God works in mysterious ways. He gives us innovative people who allow us to feed our families via delivery and curbside. And always with a smile! The kids couldn't come for Christmas, but with the technology today, we could see them open presents Christmas morning! God invented ZOOM!! Our church lives are different, but carrying on! Thank you, Jesus, for sending our pastors and all who make it possible to worship and organize our church life. We are singing! I speak, specifically, about Chancel Choir! We may record by ourselves (wilderness,) but when we come together – JOY!

Where will we go from here? I don't know! Wilderness is a place of fear, vulnerability and despair. But Jesus saves. He loves us so much that He created the minds of scientists to bring an end to this particular evil.

"I do not know." never comes to mind when I think of God's love – I know! Have faith! Believe! Do not be afraid!

Donna Berner

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us love and faith to conquer the wilderness. Amen.

★ Don't forget to look for this **star Icon (★)** to easily identify the newest information each week



Worship the Living God

**WORSHIP TIME: SUNDAYS ~ 8:30 AM WORSHIP
(FACEBOOK LIVE)**

Are you Ready for Worship? There are now three ways to participate in our Livestream of Sunday worship.

1. [Facebook Live](#) - We encourage you to start your own watch party!
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) – Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)

**MIDWEEK OPPORTUNITIES
COMMUNITY ZOOM 7:00 PM WORSHIP
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**

Lent 2021: We Wish to See Jesus - This Lent, we turn our eyes upon Jesus and look for the places he appears in Scripture and ask where those places might be in our world today.

How do you see Jesus? Where do you see Jesus? If you're a visual artist and wish to share art of where you see Jesus to correspond with our Lenten theme, we'd love to share your art. Artists of all ages are welcome! Please contact the office or let Pastor Amy know.

Lessons for Sunday, 3/14: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
John 3:1-21 We see Jesus in the shadows

Lessons for Sunday, 3/21: Psalm 31:9-16; John 12:20-33
We see Jesus in loss

Join the Palm Processional: Worship on Palm Sunday (3/28) traditionally begins with processing around the worship space, waving our palms, singing "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Take part in this joyful procession by sending in a photo or video of your household waving your palm branch (find one in your Holy Week kit or [download a copy here](#)). We'll create a "parade" across our screens as part of worship and see Jesus in the faces of our beloved BLC community! **Photos and videos should be submitted by March 21 through our Media Submissions folder in Box (contact the church office if you need access).** Contact Pastor Hoffman (pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) with any additional questions!

★ **Share a meal with another household!** Do you miss the soup and bread suppers throughout Lent that we had in our pre-COVID life? We can't physically break bread around the same tables, but we can break the same bread around different tables. Sign up and we'll pair households who will then arrange the exchange details (making plans for contactless drop off/pick up). Complete the form at <https://blcfairport.org/maundy-thursday/> by March 25 if you'd like to be part of a pairing!

★ **Check back next week for MORE Holy Week details!**

Lent 2021: Midweek Worship Opportunities – (visit <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> to view)

There are *two separate midweek Lenten opportunities* for you to participate in this year.

Wednesdays in Lent – Created for Community at 7 pm on Zoom

This year for Lent, we will live out our community connections in a bigger way, by joining together with congregations across the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference over Zoom for a midweek Lenten series.

Drawing from the Sunday texts and stories from Mark's Gospel, we will reflect together on the various ways we are called to be community: with creation, with the saints, with our neighbor, with those on the margins, and with Christ. Each **Wednesday at 7 pm**, we will join in worship together around a different theme, led by pastors across the conference in a simple liturgy of word and prayer. At 7:30, those who wish, may continue with an option to grow deeper in community, either through conversation around the day's text, or through learning a new prayer practice that expands upon the week's theme.

In addition, each congregation will also participate in a shared commitment to address hunger relief or food insecurity in their local community. Look for opportunities to be a Hunger Activist at Bethlehem this Lent.

March 17: In Community with Those on the Margins

Worship led by: Pr. Imani Olear, Pr. Gail Swanson, Pr. Craig Swanson
Prayer practice: Prayer through (Chair) Yoga

Holden Evening Prayer

Worship and pray with Lutherans around the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference with this beloved liturgy. Each week a different congregation will lead the liturgy which we will share for you to listen to on your time frame. A link will be provided in the Tuesday Ready for Worship email each week.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Devotional resources: The April - June editions of Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home as well as some extra copies of The Lutheran magazine and Spark Family magazines are available at BLC. If you would like a copy of any of these resources mailed to your home, please contact the office and we'd be happy to send them to you (first come, first serve).

Midweek Bible Study: We come together weekly as we embark on a spiritual journey. Our goal is to seek understanding and nurture our faith in Christ together. Come anytime your schedule permits. The group meets weekly at 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings. The group will continue meeting and discuss the texts for each Sunday. Check the Calendar of Events to join or see the weekly calendar for login details! Questions - contact Bob Stolze at bob.stolze@rochester.rr.com.

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

Thank you from LYO for Sweetheart Sale: On behalf of the LYO and myself thank you all so much for your participation. We have felt so supported this entire year and are thrilled we are still able to connect with all of you in different ways. A special thanks goes out to Bev Edwards for creating and donating all sweets sold during the Sweetheart Sale. Thank you all! – Bethany Trippi

Book/Bible Study: Love Is The Way, Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times

Resuming on March 14 at 9:45 am (followed by March 21 & 28)

David Gerhardt is leading a study via Zoom on this book by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. In *Love Is The Way*, Bishop Curry shares a message of hope as we follow the way of Jesus, living a life of love and grace towards others. The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing our world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions. Only love has the power to move us forward to reconciliation, healing and renewal. Such love comes from God and God empowers us to then live this way of love. Please let David know if you wish to join the last 3 weeks of the session (dgerha4616@aol.com).

Care for One Another

Help us remember our homebound in March: While we have no birthdays in March, Spring and St. Patrick's Day offer great reasons to send a greeting. We encourage you to reach out to these members who are not able to attend worship and related activities with us on a regular basis. Any occasion is a good time to remind them that they remain in our thoughts and prayers as members of our community of faith here at BLC. For further information, please contact Donna Berner at donnaberner@yahoo.com.

Serve Our Neighbor

M&SC stands for the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. As part of the Serve Ministry, we reach out to the world for the purpose of serving our neighbors near and far, especially those who are marginalized and easily forgotten. The next M&SC meeting is **April 14, 2021**, at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Please consider joining us for one meeting or many – we welcome you in whatever way you can contribute!

Lutheran World Hunger: Throughout the Lenten and the Easter seasons, M&SC will offer ways to learn more about and act on World Hunger. BLC's member contribution to World Hunger will be dedicated at the Synod Assembly in June.

Visit <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/>

- Donate through Tithe.ly or by check to BLC.
- View monthly calendars with recipes, prayers, activities, and reminders!
- Watch videos of some of the March recipes being made at:
 - o March 13 Biscuits <https://youtu.be/sPV1lWI1nEE>
 - o March 20 Scots Scones <https://youtu.be/PldWxT6xq5g>

Yay for Hunger Activists! Families, groups, or individuals have signed up for one week each. Hunger never ends. Thanks for helping! Due to overwhelming interest, a second sign up has been created to allow a second family or individual to also provide 20 items a week. Double the impact! **Sign up at the link to be the SECOND Hunger Activist for a week.** [M&SC: Hunger Activists 2 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com). Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom of the sign-up page to complete your reservation.

Each Hunger Activist will collect 20 or more of the designated weekly items. You can purchase, ask for donations, or use other legal, creative methods for obtaining the items. Deliver the items anytime during your week to the mini-food pantry.

To find the cupboard: Enter by either Pines of Perinton entrance (Rt 250 or Whitney Rd) and stay on the road that loops around the apartments. Look for the outside BLUE wood and chicken wire mini cupboard by the maintenance shed. It is open 24/7. Take a picture of yourself by the cupboard and post it on the [BLC family and friends Facebook page](#) if you like! Or check out photos posted by your BLC family.

You can contribute by doing a contactless delivery of items to the homes of those who have signed up (you may want to email or call first). Think of it as a reverse scavenger hunt!

- March 14 – dried or cans of black, pinto or garbanzo beans – #1 CarolynAnn Straub/#2 Walker family
- March 21 – clothes soap – #1 The Runke Family
- March 28 – feminine supplies – #1 Amy and Hans Walter Peterson
- April 4 – cans of vegetables – #1 The Allen Family/#2 Julie Thon, Brady and Cameron
- April 11 – peanut butter – #1 Desiree Wolfe
- April 18 – soup – #1 Paulette Costanza/#2 Bob and Phyllis Stock
- April 25 – soup – #1 Ruth and Jeff Hedin
- May 2 – toilet paper – #1 Marcy Adams
- May 9 – toilet paper – #1 Lil Lassen Ward
- May 16 – Anything! – #1 GerryAnn Westcott

Contact Beth Walker (315) 945-5539 or rbowsend@rochester.rr.com with questions or help.

Looking for a good read to follow the Crucial Conversations on Racial Justice? Here's a review of *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*, by author Isabel Wilkerson.

Every now and then you read or hear an idea, which completely reshapes your perception of a topic. *Caste* will challenge your beliefs and assumptions about the origins of the racial divide in America. The author's perspective will make so much sense you will wonder why more people are not talking about it. Isabel Wilkerson looks at the difference between caste and class in both the United States and India, comparing the development of a privileged hierarchy within a culture, and efforts to maintain or raise a group's place within that hierarchy. A recommended read for all Christians who want to understand how the U.S. got to such a place of inequality and especially for those who do not believe there is racial tension in the United States. [Caste \(Oprah's Book Club\): The Origins of Our Discontents: Wilkerson, Isabel: 9780593230251: AmazonSmile: Books](#)

Community News

★ **Open Door Mission 21st Annual Golf Classic is now a 2021 season long event right up until Labor Day...and as easy as 1-2-3!** #1. In order to participate all individuals, teams and sponsors can register by clicking the appropriate button in the above menu. All registration fees are due before June 1st. Your registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, lunch plus a tee bag gift with a golf shirt, golf balls and other goodies. #2. Beginning June 1st, registered foursomes can schedule their own tee time directly with the [Midvale Golf Club](#) pro shop by email to Mike Kiel at mike.kiel@midvalecc.com. We ask that you schedule your tee time at least five days in advance of your desired date. Weekend tee times will be made available any time after 1:00 pm. anytime before September 6, 2021. We ask that all participants play their round with respect and consideration of Midvale club members. #3. Participants will be playing a **best two of four best ball** format. That means the participants will play their own golf ball on each hole and keep their own individual scores. After each hole is played take the two best scores of your teammates and record that total in the space provided on your scorecard for a team score. We will determine who our first and second place winners are after Labor Day. Thank you for considering participating and your support during this challenging time for the Mission and our community as a whole. Register at <https://birdease.com/ODM2021GolfClassic> For more information, contact Christopher Scribani, Associate Director of Development at (585) 787-1426 or cscribani@opendoormission.com

40 Days+40 Miles+40 Dollars: Walking to End Hunger: Sunday, April 4, 2021 2:00 pm

Upstate New York Synod 5811 Heritage Landing Drive East Syracuse, NY, 13057

#UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger

Get out those walking shoes or boots or sneakers or snowshoes! Through the season of **Lent**, join the **virtual walk with Bishop Macholz and others throughout the synod while learning more about issues of hunger and what we can do to help.** <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2021/2/17/40-days40-miles40-dollars-walking-to-end-hunger>

How to participate:

1. **Make a commitment to walk at least 40 miles in the 40 days of Lent and donate \$40 to ELCA World Hunger.** You can walk in the great outdoors or just around your house as you develop this shared Lenten practice of walking and giving financially to the work of ending hunger.
2. **Share your progress on social media using these hashtags #UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger** Be sure to watch for Bishop Macholz's messages as we walk through the season.
3. **When you reach 40 miles go HERE to register your accomplishment and make your donation. All monies collected will be given to ELCA World Hunger.** You may also send a check to the UNYS Synod and make sure to make note that it is for ELCA World Hunger.

We Ask Your Prayers: *We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.*

We lift up prayers of thanksgiving for:

- Hunter, nephew of Lisa Rosenbauer who has successfully completed treatment for cancer

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- Jack Slaybaugh, brother-in-law of Bill Antell who died on 3/1
- Richard Milhouse, uncle of Bob Stock who died on 2/28

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Iona Jones, as she transitions to her new home at Wesley Gardens
- Charles Levene, father of Terri Pries, who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Carolyn Olsen, now receiving care at Crest Manor
- Waverly, friend of Phyllis Stock as she begins dialysis and seeks a kidney donor
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with or recovering from Coronavirus, and their caregivers

[Click here to view and print the March long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Calendar for week of March 14 – March 21

(Last updated on 3/10/21 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, March 15

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
6:30 pm BSA Troop 208
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019

Wednesday, March 17

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
9:30 am Education Planning
Meeting
([Join](#) or use ID 871 8823 9638)
1:00 pm Zoom* Men's Lunch
([Join](#) or use ID 874 8853 3240)
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:00 pm Zoom* Wednesdays in
Lent - Created for Community
Worship Series
([Join](#) or use ID 837 4022 0666)
8:00 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, March 18

6:30 pm Church Council
([Join](#) or use ID 856 5035 0877)

Friday, March 19

Pastor's Sabbath

No Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, March 20

9:00 am GFL Conference
Assembly

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream Worship
9:45 am Zoom* Book/Bible
Study
([Join](#) or use ID 869 8659 4311)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Announcements for the STAR should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9am. Visit www.blcfairport.org and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org



<https://www.facebook.com/BLCFairport/>